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Commissioner for PatentsApplication No. 09/983,043**- REMARKS/ARGUMENTS -**

Claims 1, 3, 6, 8 to 12, 32 and 33 are now in the application.

The indication that the subject matter of Claims 7 and 10 to 12 is allowable is greatly appreciated.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant has amended independent Claim 1 to introduce therein the subject matter of Claims 2, 4, 5 and 7. Consequently, new Claim 1 is now clearly allowable. Claims 2, 4, 5 and 7 have been cancelled as the subject matter thereof has been basically introduced into new independent Claim 1.

New independent Claim 31 results from the combination of Claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 9 and 10 and should thus be allowable.

New Claims 32 and 33 generally corresponds to original Claims 11 and 12.

In view of the above modifications made to the claims, this application is now believed to be in condition for allowance and, accordingly, a notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGES GOSSELIN ET AL.

By:



February 17, 2004

Date

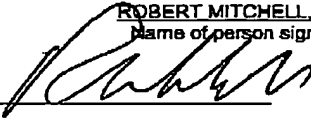
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Encl.

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Commissioner for Patents

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